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California State Parks Mission

The Mission of the California Department of Parks and Recreation is to provide for the health, inspiration, and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation.

Land Ownership

When the Project 2100 lands were purchased by the State the "recreational interest" for the lands deemed suitable for recreation use was transferred to DPR, although the State of California remained the fee title holder, DPR cannot sell this land, nor can it do anything with it that interferes with project purposes (i.e., DWR's ability to provide water and power), but otherwise it controls these lands and manages them for recreation and the protection and enhancement of natural and cultural resources. (The transfer did not include the Afterbay, nor the old railroad grade along the south side of the Diversion Pool and a few other--generally inaccessible--areas. The Bureau of Land Management also retains title to some of the land surrounding the Lake.)

Mandates

The controlling statutes for the State Water Project (SWP) reservoirs are found in the State Water Code (SWC), Sections 11900-11925 (also known as the Davis-Dolwig Act).

- **SWC 11910**** DWR has responsibility for planning for public recreation on SWP reservoirs, in consultation with DPR.
- **SWC 11918:** DPR is responsible for the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of public recreation facilities and the management of project lands and water surfaces for recreational use. The Department of Boating and Waterways (DBAW) is responsible for the design and construction of boating facilities.
- **SWC 11918:** also gives DPR the authority to "establish and enforce" standards for the development, operation, and maintenance of the public recreation areas.
- **SWC 11919:** states that public recreation facilities in connection with state water projects are recreation areas.

The controlling statutes for general DPR planning and operations are contained in the Public Resources Code (PRC), Division I, Chapters I-10, Sections 500-546 and 5000-5843. The sections of primary interest for Project 2100 are those which control the types of development.

- **PRC 5019.50**:** requires that units of the State Park System be classified into one of a number of specified categories; these categories determine the extent and types of development allowable. Lake Oroville is a State Recreation Area.
- **PRC 5019.53:** states that “Improvements undertaken within state parks shall be for the purpose of making the areas available for public enjoyment and education in a manner consistent with the preservation of natural, scenic, cultural, and ecological values for present and future generations. Improvements which do not directly affect the public’s enjoyment of [these values], which are attractions in themselves, or which are otherwise available to the public within a reasonable distance outside the park, shall not be undertaken in state parks.”
- **PRC 5019.56:** addresses development in SRAs. They are “. . . areas selected and developed to provide multiple recreational opportunities to meet other than purely local needs.” It goes on to state that “Improvements may be undertaken to provide for recreational activities, including but not limited to, camping, picnicking, swimming, hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, boating, waterskiing, diving, winter sports, fishing, and hunting.”
- **PRC 5019.56:** further states that “Improvements to provide for urban or indoor formalized recreational activities shall not be undertaken within state recreation areas.”
- **PRC 5080.03:** Concessions may be established for the “...enhancement of recreational and educational experiences at units of the state park system,” but “...shall not be entered into solely for their revenue producing potential.”
- **PRC 5080.30:** allows for operation of State Park lands by other public agencies under lease or operating agreements. The law requires that these entities operate them in accordance with State Park standards and legal mandates, however, so all the above provisions would still apply.

Planning History

- **PRC 5002.2** requires preparation of a General Plan before development of any facilities within a unit of the State Park System, with some exceptions (trails, for example, are exempt, as are provisions for public health and safety).
- General Plans are broad documents that provide guidance to management on a number of topics, including resource management, interpretation, operations, as well as facilities development.
- General Plans and Amendments must be approved by the State Park and Recreation Commission (Commission).
- **A General Plan was prepared for Lake Oroville in 1973, and a General Plan Amendment (to address development at Lime Saddle) was completed in 1988.** Any recreation improvements undertaken in conjunction with DWR’s relicensing Recreation Plan will either have to be compatible with the unit’s General Plan or be specifically approved by the Commission. Preparation of a new General Plan has been requested, but the work has not been scheduled at this time.

****The full text of these and other California Code sections may be found on the Internet at the Legislative Counsel’s website: <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/>**